

RECOMMENDATIONS

Art Exhibition

Sept. 21-25 Charcoal, a contemporary artists' group holds an art exhibition at the Alliance Francaise gallery at Mirpur road in the city that continues daily from 4 to 8 p.m.

Photography exhibition

Sept. 21-30 Entitled 'A Glimpse of Bangladesh Heritage', a photo exhibition of Babu Ahmed, a photojournalist, continues at the DRK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition remains open everyday from 3 to 8 p.m.

Solo painting

Sept. 15-30 Artist Sadrul Hassan Rafi's solo exhibition continues at Alliance Francaise in the city and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & from 5 to 8 p.m. The show opens on today at 6:30 p.m.

Six celebrated artists' show

Sept. 20 Oct. 7 Akku Chowdhury hosts art exhibition of 6 celebrated artists of the country, Jamal Ahmed, Kanak Champa Chakma, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Saidul Islam Juisse, Fareha Zeba and Nisar Hossain at La Galerie, Kemal Ataturk Avenue. The show remains open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Photography

September 25-30 Amateur photographer Mozharul Haq Monju holds a solo photography exhibition at the Fine Arts Institute in the city that displays works of the photographer framed in Keokradong around tribal families of various cast and creed. The exhibition gets inaugurated by renowned photographer Enam Ul Haq on September 25 at 5 p.m. 41 photographs are scheduled for display.

Interview

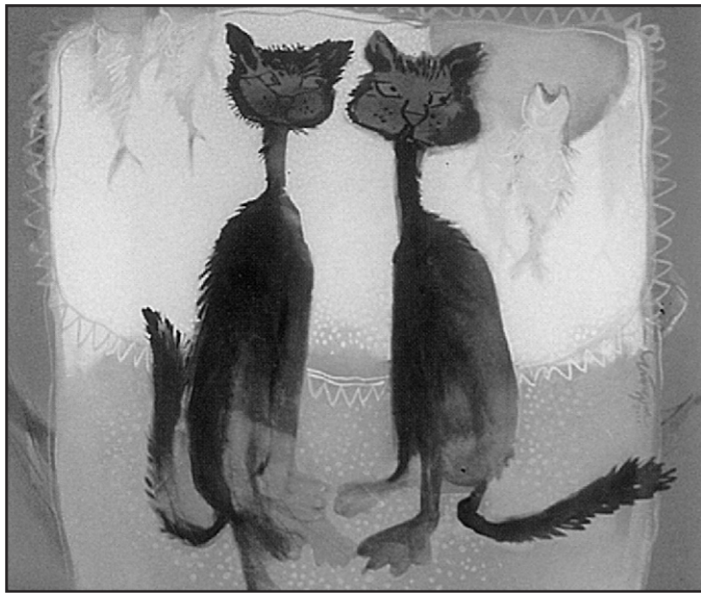
Of cats, fish and dream-like backdrops

Farida Zaman holds her solo exhibit at Chittrak

FAYZA HAQ

FARIDA Zaman, who is holding her fourth solo exhibit at Gallery Chittrak has often used her childhood memories for her paintings. As a child she has travelled with her father to the different parts of the villages of Bangladesh as he was posted with the NSI. It is normal that some of her early memories should enter her work. She may not have taken whole scenes from these recollections but parts such as a situation of a foggy morning or the sun rising. Boats have repeatedly come into the timing, emotion and subjects of her paintings. Now too she travels with the Fine Arts Institute or in case of family trips to her home in Chandpur and her in-laws' home in Faridpur. She has been to Chittagong and Sylhet too and there is an impact of these visits in her work. Farida says, 'I like to travel by train most of all as I can see my surroundings on the way and get inspiration for my work. My subjects do not deal with the cities and so the villages are vital in my life. With all the restlessness of the metropolitan life my instincts crave for the peace and tranquillity of village life. I am not keen to bring in the turmoil and frustrations of city life in my paintings.'

Talking about her studies abroad at Baroda and Shantiniketan, Farida says, 'I have not consciously been influenced in my own style or technique by my environment or teachers although I've brought in fisher women whom I found at the places where I had studied. My teachers were Prof KG Subramaniam and during my Ph.D. at Santiniketan I had Kanchan Charabarty and Jayanta Chakrabarty to help me. There were other artists too with whom I had the opportunity to be with and whose kindness and friendship I enjoyed. There might have been some elements in their works that I liked and there may be some of their influence there. So far I have dealt with aspects of fishermen's life. Side by side I've shown cats



Friendship

with fish, river, boats. Also, I've shown the relationship of the wind and the water in our country. Thus nature has been highlighted in my present exhibition.'

Asked to say a few words about her style and subjects, Farida says, 'I minimize and simplify. I

want the viewers to like and enjoy my work. I don't want to be so abstract that they would be lost in confusion or contemplation. If there is something complicated the viewer may not be able to identify himself/herself with it or enjoy it to the fullest extent. Earlier I used to



Fish and crane

concentrate on the fishing net. I now bring in moments like the thoughts and contemplation of the fishermen late at night, their family life such as a dead fish with a boy, a cloudy day with boats and fish that are interrelated. It is normal that where there are boats there are also fish. I've brought in couples too. There are early mornings where birds are calling out and looking for fish. Sometimes there are scenes where the fishing couples are about to go to the market to sell their catch.

'There are scenes where you see the stork ready to catch to fish or is sitting with the fish in its beak. There is a covered boat with lots of fish in black, red and violet and this depicts the dream of the fishermen. There are moonlit nights with water lilies and other water beings. The different colours are there to bring in the atmosphere such as the blue boy with the bird who could easily be the child of the fishermen. All throughout it is the atmosphere that I've tried to capture. The existence of my subjects is spun around fishing. In the 'Blue night' you see the fish under the water and some flowers floating above it. In 'Fish and crane' you see the happy go lucky heron catching fish with aplomb.

'What is new is that some of the approach of capturing the timing and segments of the life of the villagers and the nature that surrounds them has been dealt in a fresh way. I have focused on the emotions of people and the mood of nature around them.'

In her present exhibition Farida has brought in new elements like the rickshaw with a bird sitting on it, and women collecting flowers from the same pond that the fish are caught. There is the element of 'Friendship' brought in with the introduction with two black cats with red and brown eyes. There are motifs in front and land at the back. Again, there is a girl having a watermelon done in shades of orange, red, pink and blue. We also find a girl with a cat done in black and orange. A couple is shown as sharing a watermelon piece done in shades of orange

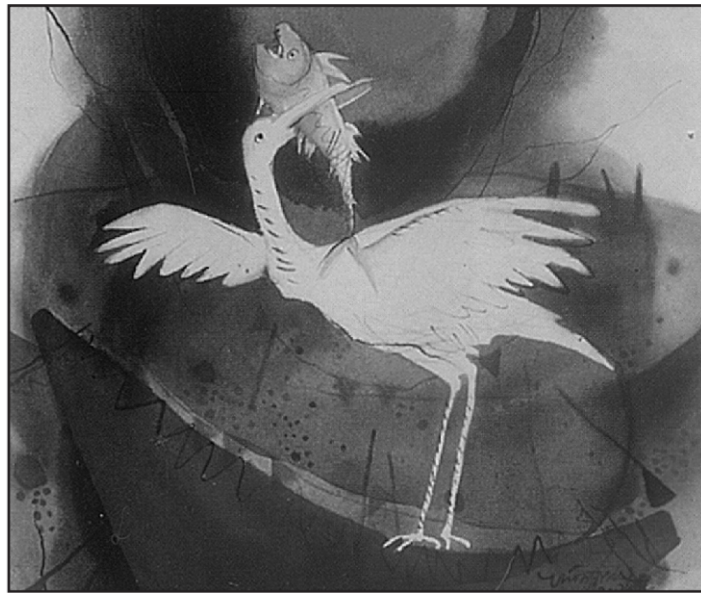
and black. There is a midnight too a landscape with a fish and crane.

Asked if her family had encouraged her in her career, Farida says, 'My parents encouraged me all along in my profession. Although my mother had been very ill yet she was here at the opening of the exhibition and I'm very moved by this. My uncle, my husband Showk-utuzzaman, a sister of mine Moni, who is in printmaking, and her husband Shameem are all practicing artists. The fact that my husband is an artist encourages me with my work although if I couldn't paint on my own he could not have persuaded me to do so. I've had to make a lot of sacrifices for my work and keep it up along with my housework and teaching. I do have a helping hand at home frequently but this does not leave me as much time as I would have wanted to dedicate to my painting. However, my husband has never hindered me in my work and we naturally criticize and appreciate each other's works as we sit together when the day is done.'

Talking about how she goes about her work, Farida says, 'I have no problems in working at night with two lights on as I have got used to this. I work in the mornings too after the children have gone to school and I have some time before going to work and in the afternoons for two hours when people in our country usually rest. I devote the rest of my time to the household chores but my children help me in this.'

Touching on her book illustrations, Farida says, 'I have been illustrating books for children and youth since my student days and continue with it because I enjoy it and not just for the extra money. Sometimes, on special request, I also illustrate books for adults. Again, I like to write. There has been a book published from the Bangla Academy and this is called 'Adhoni Chitkolkar Probbhab' and this was based on my PhD thesis and elaborated on this. I'd like to write more but don't have the time.'

Asked to comment on the



Boat at sun

women painters of the country, Farida says, 'I think individuals like Nasreen Begum, Rokeya Sultana and Kanak Champa Chakma are doing sincere and admirable work. There is Lipi, Shadhana, Nazlee and Dilara Begum Jolly in this category and of course Naima Haq has been doing good work for quite some time. I do not want to differentiate male artists from female ones but we must keep in mind that our women have to look after the home apart from painting and

teaching.' Farida who has had four solo exhibitions in Bangladesh, has participated in about 30 group shows in places like Japan, China, Germany, UAE, South Korea, India Brazil etc. She has won eight awards including the 1st prize for painting at Baroda, India in 1977, the gold medal academy award from Mobile Young Artists' Exhibition in 1979 and the UGC scholarship under Bangladesh, Indian Cultural Exchange Program in

Exhibition



A scene from La Galerie's Revival Exhibition

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 5:45 p.m. Battlefield Earth. 3000 AD - Earthlings have accepted their place in the intergalactic hierarchy - slaves to the Psychos. All but one. Leading the war for freedom is Jonnie (Pepper, Saving Private Ryan) who dreams only of returning to his clan and to the girl he loves. While the Psychos are content having made earthlings their slaves, Teri (Travolta, Saturday Night Fever, Pulp Fiction), the alien chief of security has other plans up his extra-terrestrial sleeve - to steal gold from a quarry.



STAR MOVIES: 7:00p.m. Gen-Y Cops. When brilliant Kurt, a disgruntled former designer of RS 1, steals the high-tech robot, Edison, Mally, Alien and Ian must pursue him, both in reality and in the virtual world of the Internet. The agents soon discover that Kurt, employed by an international arms dealer, is planning to sell RS 1 to a wealthy Middle East buyer.



HALLMARK: 10:00 p.m. The Return of the Native. This new interpretation of Thomas Hardy's 19th century masterpiece tells the turbulent story of Eustacia Vye, a young woman feeling trapped by the constraints of country life and her desire to experience the outside world.

PICK OF THE DAY



Pirates of Silicon Valley On HBO at 11:45 p.m. Noah Wyle and Joey Slotnick portray Apple computer founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. While Anthony Michael Hall and John Di Maggio play Microsoft's Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer. From nights of dorm room tinkering to days of boardroom scheming, these four young quirky visionaries fight an ongoing battle that will literally change the world forever.

ALPHA TV BANGLA

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ZEE TV

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